Climate change

*458.DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stage of the concern and priorities of Government on climate change;

(b) whether there is a National Plan, based on the experience and expertise and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a Strength Weakness Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis was made and whether the country is confident of tackling the problem of climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Climate change is a serious global environmental concern. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global atmospheric concentrations of Greenhouse Gas have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values. As projected by IPCC, climate change can slow down the pace of progress towards sustainable development either directly through increased exposure to adverse impact or indirectly through erosion of the capacity to adapt. It may also alter the distribution and quality of India's natural resources. India is faced with the challenge of sustaining its rapid economic growth while dealing with the global threat of climate change.

Recognizing the challenge of climate change, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was prepared based on the experience, expertise and information available through various studies. The NAPCC was released on 30th June 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change. The National Action plan outlines eight Missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change. It outlines a number of steps that will enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path.

Climate Change is a multi-dimensional issue. Studies have been conducted on different aspects of the climate change phenomenon. NAPCC is a comprehensive response to the challenge of climate change in the country.

Commitment at Copenhagen Summit on climate change

*459.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any specific commitment at the Copenhagen Summit on climate change to reduce the quantum of greenhouse gases within a time frame;